US Army Corps of Engineers ®
Baltimore District

The Corps'pondent

A newsletter by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for Spring Valley Project area residents

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http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/projects/WashingtonDC/springvalley.htm

The Corps' mission in Spring Valley is to identify, investigate and remove or remediate threats to human health, safety or the environment resulting from past Department of Defense activities in the area.

Recovery of buried munitions begins soon

by Dan Noble
Project Manager

Since the July edition of the Corps'pondent a significant amount of work has been accomplished in the 4800 block of Glenbrook Road. Residents, motorists and pedestrians have been able to watch the construction of the Engineering Control Structure (ECS) — the building that has been erected over the location of Pit 3 — for fragmentation and vapor control when munitions recovery begins this Fall.

Trees were cleared and a minimal amount of surface grading was done to make room for the structure. Crews constructed the basic structure using a shoring panel system that allows for a very strong, lightweight, and self-supporting building to be assembled in a short time-frame. Now built, the structure is being armored with aluminum plating to provide a protective metal skin of adequate thickness to stop any fast-moving metal fragments that might result from an unintended detonation.

The thickness of this aluminum skin was the main item of discussion between the USACE and the property owner, American University, that caused the project start date delay, as referred to in the last issue of the Corps'pondent. USACE and American University officials slowly and deliberately reviewed all aspects of how thick the plating needed to be prior to building the structure. Public safety is, and continues to be, the top priority for all parties.

After the metal structure construction is complete, a fabric cover, called the Vapor Containment Cover, will be draped over the building to ensure that in the unlikely event of a chemical release during excavation that any chemical vapors are contained and properly filtered. The placement of the VCC will complete the construction phase of the project; completion is scheduled for Sept. 21.

The USACE will then enter a training phase where work crews will completely familiarize themselves with the structure and how to conduct work safely inside of it. This activity will take about one month. The USACE plans to begin the investigation and munitions recovery activities the week of Oct. 29. Once underway, the expected duration of the effort is 14 weeks, with three to four weeks of site restoration and a close-out period.

During this same time period, in addition to the Pit 3 dig, a test pit investigation will be conducted nearby. This will include the remainder of the property, and the property next door. The investigation involves the digging of pits in a grid pattern to locate any additional munitions burial areas. It was a similar test pit investigation that led to the discovery of Pit 3.

A progress update and details on all the work scheduled for Glenbrook Road will be presented at a community meeting to be held on Oct. 2, 2007, from 7 to 9 p.m., in the Sibley Memorial Hospital auditorium. Representatives from the USACE and its partners, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the D.C. Department of the Environment, will be on hand to present information and answer questions. Please consider attending to find out more information about Pit 3 and the Army's activities in the Spring Valley community.

Upcoming Meetings

USACE Community Meeting
October 2, 2007
7-9 p.m.
Sibley Memorial Hospital Auditorium
5255 Loughboro Rd., N.W.

Restoration Advisory Board Meeting
October 9, 2007
7-9:30 p.m.
St. David's Episcopal Church
5150 Macomb St., N.W.

AEGLs at Glenbrook Road, explained

by Dan Noble
Project Manager

There is one fact that most Spring Valley residents have probably become aware of — the Army uses a lot of acronyms.

In preparation for this Fall's dig at the 4800 block of Glenbrook Road, I would like to familiarize you with one more acronym — AEGLs (phonetically pronounced "A Eagles"). It stands for Acute Exposure Guideline Levels.

AEGLs are health-based standards set by a committee made up of toxicology professionals from around the world who research and use the best scientific information available when setting the standards.

The setting of these levels is a process sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In addition, the committee's work is reviewed by the National Academy of Sciences. AEGLs are standards used by emergency planners and commercial industry safety professionals.

An AEGL distance is a "safe distance" that is calculated when considering appropriate precautions to take during an activity that could impact public safety.

To calculate the AEGL distance for Spring Valley's Glenbrook Road work, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had to make assumptions about the type of chemical agent that might be released as well as how much could potentially be released.

These assumptions are collectively referred to as the Maximum Credible Event or the MCE. The USACE has chosen the instantaneous release of Arsine gas from a 75 mm chemical mortar round.

The MCE is a consensus assumption reached by numerous safety experts and is based on a thorough review of all that is known about the site. The last factor considered is the type of weather conditions (temperature, wind speed, etc.) that might be present during a release.

Based on the AEGL standard, and taking into account assumptions on the amount of Arsine that could be released and weather conditions at the time of the activity, the USACE has calculated a safe distance of 742 feet.

The USACE will contact all Spring Valley residents living within 742 feet of Pit 3 to give more detail about the safety procedures, to include shelter-in-place, and be on hand to answer any questions they may have.

Residents should keep in mind that the calculation of this distance, along with public notification, are precautionary measures taken by the USACE to inform the public fully on safety issues. The likelihood of the occurrence of the MCE is extremely improbable and redundant safety measures are in place to ensure that the MCE does NOT occur.

To get more information on AEGLs and the work at Glenbrook Road, please attend the community meeting to be held at the Sibley Memorial Hospital auditorium on Oct. 2, from 7 to 9 p.m.

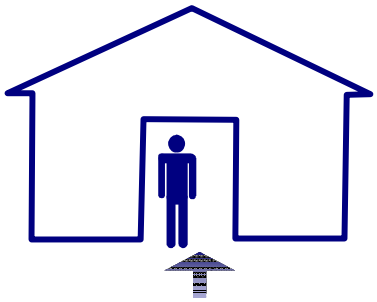
Shown left: Circled area indicates AEGLs distance.

SHELTER-IN-PLACE

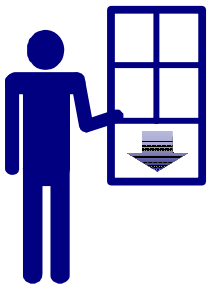
Spring Valley FUDS Community Outreach

If you hear the Siren, there is a Chemical Emergency

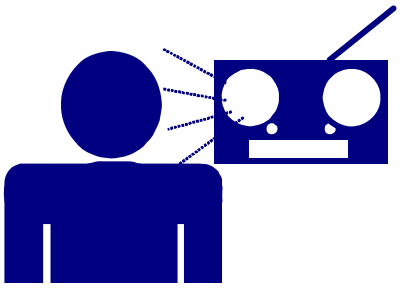
The following steps need to be taken immediately upon hearing the Spring Valley Emergency Siren



Step 1.
Go inside QUICKLY
& answer
our Emergency Call.



Step 2.
Close all windows and doors, and turn off all ventilation systems (air conditioning or heating.



Step 3.
Listen for the "ALL CLEAR" Siren & instructions
on Local Radio Stations, or WJLA/Channel 7 or NEWS 8.

Siren tests occur on the first Wednesday of the month at 4:05 pm.

For more information about Shelter-in-Place, please call the Spring Valley Community Outreach Team **at** 410-962-0157 **or** 1 (800) 434-0988, **or visit** www.nab.usace.army.mil/projects/WashingtonDC/springvalley.htm

Groundwater sampling update

At the Sept. 6, 2007, partnering meeting held between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the D.C. Department of the Environment, the groundwater sampling contractor, URS, presented updated groundwater elevations and the unvalidated results for both indicator and full list analysis from the water sampling conducted in June. The preliminary observations by URS are that results seem consistent with what was seen in the past for perchlorate at previously sampled wells, with some increases and some decreases. Based on results from the new wells, there is no indication of a continuous perchlorate plume between the American University Lot 18 area and the area south of the reservoir. Also, based on the results from the new wells, it appears that perchlorate is not present in noteworthy amounts immediately south of the project area in either plume area. The full parameters list results looks consistent with previous results based on a cursory data review thus far. The partners plan to meet next month to futher discuss the new water sampling results and to plan any future water sampling activities.

The Corps'pondent

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Community Meeting
October 2, 2007
7-9 p.m.
(See inside for details)

Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site

Project Lifecycle Schedule

The macro schedule is a working document that will be adjusted periodically in response to the evolving needs and priorities of the Spring Valley investigation and cleanup. The tasks within this schedule have been estimated in order to facilitate planning and prioritization discussions among our regulatory partners and other stakeholders. It should be understood that each task may end up taking more or less time than is currently allocated on this schedule.

	FY 07 Oct 06 –Sept 07	FY 08 Oct 07 –Sept 08	FY 09 Oct 08 –Sept 09	FY 10 Oct 09 –Sept 10	FY 11 Oct 10 –Sept 11
MMRP Military Munitions Response Program	▪ 4825 Glenbrook Pit 3 investigation ▪ 4825/4835 Glenbrook test pit investigation ▪ Intrusive investigation - 7 residential properties ▪ Geophys. Glenbrook Road area ▪Wide area assessment of Dalecarlia Woods	▪ Ordnance disposal ▪ 4825/4835 Glenbrook ▪ Intrusive investigation – 1 residential property ▪ Intrusive investigation - AU Public Safety Building ▪ Geophys. residential/range fan properties - 22 ▪ Geophys. AOI ▪ AU Public Safety Building air sampling	▪ Geophys. Dalecarlia ▪ Restoration of 4825/4835 Glenbrook ▪ Geophys. 20 residential properties ▪ Intrusive investigation - 15 residential properties ▪ Geophys. AOI ▪ Intrusive investigation - AOI	▪Intrusive investigation - Dalecarlia ▪ Geophys. 20 residential properties ▪ Intrusive investigation – 20 residential properties ▪ Intrusive investigation - AOI	▪ RI/FS Report,** Proposed Plan and Decision Document
HTW Hazardous and Toxic Waste Program	▪ Arsenic removal (124 grids) ▪ Groundwater investigation ▪ Phytoremediation ▪ RI/FS Report ▪ 4825 Soil gas ▪ Lot 18 risk analysis ▪ Background soil sampling	▪ Arsenic removal (124 grids) ▪ Groundwater investigation ▪ Phytoremediation ▪ RI/FS Report ▪ AOI soil sampling & removal ▪ Arsenic removal at 4825/4835 Glenbrook ▪ Ecological risk assessment	▪ Arsenic Removal (56 grids) ▪ Groundwater investigation ▪ Phytoremediation ▪ RI/FS Report ▪ AOI Sampling	▪ Property reimbursements ▪ Phytoremediation ▪ RI/FS Report ▪ AOI Sampling	▪ RI/FS Report, Proposed Plan and Decision Document

** The Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Report process will include an evaluation of human and ecological risk resulting from any residual contamination remaining. If the risk assessment indicates the need for further cleanup, the necessary remedial action will be included in the schedule at that time.

2007

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month, with the exception of August and December, at 7 p.m. at St. David's Episcopal Church, 5150 Macomb Street N.W.